

Weather



National Weather Service

Tonight: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 7 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58. Windy, with a south wind 30 to 35 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 50 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 78. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. North wind between 5 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Saturday: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Cloudy, with a high near 62. North wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Saturday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 63.

Sunday Night: A slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Columbus Day: Sunny, with a high near 70.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 73.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 70.

Wednesday: High, 81; Low 52
Precip: Wednesday None
Month: None
Year: 16.41 inches
Normal: 17.78 inches
(K-State Experiment Station)
Sunrise and Sunset
Friday 7:46 a.m. 7:18 p.m.
Moon: waxing, 83 percent
(U.S. Naval Observatory)

Cause of corn fire still unknown

From "CAUSE," Page 1

ers from APAC Kansas, who were working Willow Drive, provided tankers as well. McLemore said he appreciated the help these groups provided.

Firefighters had the blaze under control within a few hours. McLemore said he went back to the burn area several times during the evening to check on things. Some of the burning material, such as the hay bales, were covered over with dirt, he said, and may smolder for the rest of the week until all the burnable material is consumed. McLemore

wasn't sure how much corn had caught fire, but estimated about 120 acres.

While the fire department was out at the cornfield fire, another call came in from Hills Feedyard southeast of town. McLemore said that fire was already put out by a tractor and disc before firefighters arrived. Another fire on a porch on South Range Avenue was also put out quickly before firefighters were dispatched.

Last week's crop fires were also put out with the help of tractors and discs, which are used to cut swathes through crops, stubble or grass to create fire lines.

"Tractors and discs are great firefighting tools," he said.

One fire on Friday in a stubble field north of Meadow Lake Golf Course may have been started by fireworks.

The National Weather Service is predicting another day of high winds. Sustained wind speeds may reach 40 mph with gusts up to 60. Red Flag warnings – indicating high fire danger – are also in effect around the region. Some thunderstorms are possible the rest of the week and weekend. Those include the chance of cloud to ground lightning, which can ignite fires in dry crops.

Groups increase pipeline opposition

By Matthew Daly
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Environmental groups on Tuesday asked President Barack Obama to intervene on a Canadian company's plan to pipe oil from tar sands in western Canada to the Texas Gulf Coast, ratcheting up their opposition in the long-running battle against the Keystone XL pipeline.

The groups charged that the State Department is biased in favor of the pipeline, and they urged Obama to push the State Department aside and personally make a decision on the pipeline plan.

"Mr. President, the State Department has erred, but there is still time for you to do the right thing," the groups said in a letter to Obama. "Tell the lobbyists in Washington that their days of setting the agenda are over. Reject this dirty tar sands oil pipeline."

The request by Friends of the Earth and other environmental groups – including Sierra Club, Greenpeace USA, Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Center for Biological Diversity – was the latest skirmish in a long-running battle over a plan by Calgary-based TransCanada to build a massive pipeline to carry crude oil extracted from tar sands in Alberta to refineries in Texas.

The 1,700-mile pipeline, which would travel through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, would carry an estimated 700,000 barrels of oil a day, doubling the capacity of an existing pipeline from Canada. Supporters say it could significantly reduce U.S. dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

The project has become a flashpoint for environmental groups who say it would bring "dirty oil" that requires huge amounts of energy to extract and could cause an ecological disaster in case of a spill.

Friends of the Earth released internal emails and other documents this week that they said

demonstrate an overly cozy relationship between State Department officials and TransCanada. Friends of the Earth and other critics singled out friendly exchanges with TransCanada executive Paul Elliott, a former aide in Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign.

One email, from Marja Verloop, an official at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, cheered news from Elliott that Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., was supporting the pipeline.

"Go Paul! Baucus support holds clout," Verloop wrote.

In an e-mail to David Jacobson, the U.S. ambassador to Canada, Verloop described TransCanada as "comfortable and on board" with developments in the review process.

Terry Cunha, a spokesman for TransCanada, said Elliott lobbied State Department officials in much the same way as lobbyists for Friends of the Earth and other environmental groups.

"Mr. Elliott was and is simply doing his job," Cunha said. "No laws have been broken"

Cunha called it "absurd" to suggest that Elliott or Verloop – described by the State Department as a career Foreign Service officer – could determine the outcome of a review that involved 10 federal agencies and a "myriad" of local governments. The three-year U.S. review included detailed environmental assessments by the State Department and Environmental Protection Agency, and a series of public hearings.

Victoria Nuland, a State Department spokeswoman, said Verloop, a counselor for energy/environment at the U.S. Embassy, did not "have any impact or any input in the development of the Keystone environmental impact statement" released by the State Department in August.

The State Department has authority over the \$7 billion project because the pipeline would cross the U.S. border. Officials have promised a decision by the end of the year.

City imposes fine on bad yards

From "FINES," Page 1

the city's intent to demolish the old pool and bath house. Armstrong said this is the first step in the demolition process since the building is on the National Historic Register. If the state doesn't respond within 30 days, the city can go ahead with the demolition. If the state does respond, there will be a public hearing within 60 days.

- Awarded a bid to PMSI for crack fill material for \$21,285 and machine rental for \$500.
- Amended the municipal code to allow the Colby Tree Board to have seven members

instead of five. Armstrong said the board has so many projects that the members felt they needed more people to keep track of it all.

- Approved a change order on the Willow Drive project to use a cold plastic instead of multi-component paint for lane markings. Armstrong said the cold plastic should last longer on the concrete. The change order increased the contract by \$15,600.
- Approved two agreements with Colby Community College on the interconnection of their wind turbine, subject to final review by Midwest Energy and the city attorney.

Arts Commission has big dreams, few dollars

From "ARTS," Page 1

eliminate the commission, and he replaced seven of its 12 members, with one vacancy remaining.

Weis is also chairwoman of the Arts Foundation, which formed in February, anticipating the possible elimination of the Arts Commission. She and two other foundation directors serve on the commission, leading to criticism from arts advocates, but she said the two operate separately.

She said the foundation's only goal is to raise private funds to promote the arts.

"I don't mean any disrespect – please understand me – but we have existed hand-to-mouth on whatever we got from government," she said. "People could have been donating lots and lots and lots of money to the Kansas Arts Commission, which could have built our Kansas arts program."

Arts advocates and some legislators question whether the commission, the Arts Foundation or local groups can make up

for lost state, federal and regional alliance funds with private dollars. They say state funding often gives a program or group legitimacy as it approaches private contributors.

They're also reporting that local programs are scrambling to mount exhibits, reach schoolchildren or keep offices open. Organizers canceled the Wichita Black Arts Festival, held every previous Labor Day since 1968.

"That's one of the reasons that people have been so concerned that there's no funding for these community efforts," said Sen. Jean Schodorf, a Wichita Republican. "That's why there has been so much emotion about changing the system and losing the money."

Weis and Herzog said the commission hasn't given up on attracting NEA funds and is working to revise the state's plan for promoting the arts, required by the federal agency. Herzog said commission members themselves are handling administrative chores; the commission's office is being provided by the Arts Foundation.

Briefly

City plans power outage

The Colby Electric Department is planning to turn off power from Copeland Avenue to Smith Drive and from the First Street Annex to West Sixth Street today. The outage will begin at 5:15 p.m. and should last about two hours. For information, call the department at 460-4420.

Music Booster Club seeking decorations

The Colby Music Booster Club is looking for donations of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations – including Halloween costumes – for a Holiday Garage Sale fund raiser. The sale will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 15, at 405 N. Franklin Ave. Proceeds from the sale will go to new uniforms for the Colby Eagle Marching Band. For more information or to make a donation, call Jan Barnum at 462-5892.

Look for Lions at game

The High Plains Lions Club will be at the Dennen Field gates during the Colby High School football game Friday to raise money for sight research at the University of Kansas Medical Center. For more information, call Sheryl Brenn at (785) 586-2384.

Oakley corn cook-off set for this Friday

Show off your corn cooking skills at the Open Class Corn Cook-Off from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday at The Cave in Oakley. Bring a favorite recipe to be judged in one of three classes: side and main dish; breads and baked goods; or snacks, candies and desserts. The dish must have some form of corn in it. For information, call Judith at (785) 671-4525 or Rosa at (785) 671-3608.

Fatherhood class to begin this Tuesday

The 24/7 Dad will start at 7 p.m. Tuesday meeting at Redeeming Love Ministries in Colby. Classes will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. 24/7 Dad is a fatherhood program with experienced facilitators, W.G. Romine and Jarrod Spencer, bringing fathers together and giving them tools for improvement and to build on their strengths. For information, call Paige Campbell at 460-8177.

Seniors plan potluck

The group More Fun Together plans a potluck for people 50 or older who are alone, widowed, divorced, separated or who have partners in nursing homes at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring a dish to share; table service and beverage will be provided. For information, call 462-6342.

School district to hold combined concert

Colby Public Schools will hold its annual "District Music Concert" on at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, at the Colby Community Building. It will feature musicians from the Grade School, Middle School and High School. There is no cost to attend. For information, call music instructor Jennifer Koel at 460-5100.

We Celebrate Hometown Life

Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

HIST	The Stoned Ages	Cocaine: History	The Stoned Ages
LIFE	Girl Fight	Georgia Rule	Girl Fight
MTV	Teen Mom	The Real World	Jersey Shore
NICK	Victorou	Victorou	Victorou
SCI	End of Days	The Terror Beneath	Path of Destruction
SPIKE	UFC 136 Prelims	King	The Perfect Storm
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	The Dark Knight
TCM	Gunga Din	Flight Commander	Sinbad
TLC	Dateline: Real Life	Dateline: Real Life	Prison Diaries
TNT	Shrek	Shrek 2	RV
TOON	Scooby	Adventure	Venture
TRAV	Terr Places	Terrifying Places	Most Terrifying
TV LAND	Sanford	Sanford	Raymond
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU
VH1	Tough Love: Miami	Greatest Songs	Greatest Songs
WGN	Funniest Home Videos	Funniest Home Videos	WGN News at Nine
HBO	Harry Potter	Ring Life	Boardwalk Empire
MAX	Mercury Rising	Strike Back	The Town
SHOW	Red	Pound of Flesh	Homeland

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Saturday Evening October 8, 2011											
7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	College Football										
KBSL/CBS	Rules	2 Broke G	48 Hours Mystery	48 Hours Mystery	Local						
KSNK/NBC	Harry's Law	Prime Suspect	Law & Order: SVU	Local		Saturday Night Live					
KSAS/FOX	MLB Baseball			Local		Hell's Kitchen		New Girl	Local		
Sunday Evening October 9, 2011											
7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30		
KAKE/ABC	Extreme Makeover	Desperate Housewives	Pan Am							Local	
KBSL/CBS	The Amazing Race	The Good Wife	CSI: Miami							Local	
KSNK/NBC	Football	NFL Football								Local	Dateline NBC
KSAS/FOX	MLB Baseball									Local	
Cable Channels											
A & E	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
AMC	Alien 3					Alien Resurrection					
ANIM	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!	Bad Dog!
BRAVO	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Housewives/NJ	Jersey
CMT	Last-Mohicans			Commando							Trick My
CNN	CNN Presents	Piers Morgan Tonight	CNN Newsroom	CNN Presents	CNN Presents	Piers Morgan Tonight					
COMEDY	40-Year-Old Vir			Sex Drive							Tosh.0
DISC	MythBusters	MythBusters		Penn & Teller	MythBusters	Penn & Teller					
DISN	Monsters, Inc.		Jessie	ANT Farm	Random	Phineas	Fish Hook				
E!	Night-Roxbury			Kendra	Kendra	The Soup	Chelsea	Kardashian			
ESPN	College Football			SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Football Final				
ESPN2	College Football			Football Scoreboard	Depth Chart			Baseball	E:60		
FAM	Titanic			Chopped		Iron Chef America		Chopped			
FOOD	Chopped	Chopped									
FX	College Football			Two Men	Two Men	League	League	Wilfred			
HGTV	HGTV'd	High Low	Grt Rooms	Novogratz	Dina's Pa	Donna Dec	Hunters	Hunters	Grt Rooms	Novogratz	